

## Blanket Certificate for Exempt Qualifying Purchases of Meals or Lodging by an Exempt Entity

**General Purpose:** Exempt organizations, qualifying governmental agencies, nonprofit charitable hospitals, nonprofit nursing homes, nonprofit rest homes, and nonprofit residential care homes should use this certificate to establish that their recurring purchases of meals or lodging are exempt from tax. (Any reference to **tax** in this document includes sales and use taxes and room occupancy tax, as applicable.) These organizations, governmental agencies, hospitals and homes are referred to as **exempt entities** throughout this certificate. **CERT-123** is a blanket certificate that allows an exempt entity to make repeat qualifying exempt purchases of meals or lodging, or both, for a one-year period. See **CERT-112, Exempt Purchases of Meals or Lodging by Exempt Entities**, for a single qualifying exempt purchase of meals or lodging. Use this certificate **only** if these four conditions are met:

1. The retailer directly invoices and charges the exempt entity for the meals or lodging; **and**
2. The exempt entity directly pays the retailer with a check drawn on its own account or with a credit card issued in its own name; **and**
3. The exempt entity is not reimbursed, in whole or in part, by donation or otherwise, for its payment for the meals or lodging by those consuming the meals or lodging; **and**
4. The purchase of the meals or lodging occurs before the expiration date specified on the blanket certificate.

**Statutory Authority:** Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-412(1)(A), (5), (8), and (94).

**Credit Card Purchases:** If a credit card is used to pay the retailer of meals or lodging, the card must be issued in the name of the exempt entity. The credit card must be used exclusively to make purchases for the use of the exempt entity (not for the convenience of its officers, employees, or members). The credit card charges must be paid by a check drawn on the exempt entity's own checking account.

**Nonqualifying Purchases:** This certificate may not be used (and tax must be paid) on the purchase of meals or lodging not meeting all four of the conditions above. Nonqualifying purchases include fund raisers where those who attend are charged or are required to make any payment and seminars or conferences where meals or lodging are included in the conference or seminar registration fee, except as described below.

An exempt entity may purchase meals exempt from tax using **CERT-113, Purchases of Tangible Personal Property and Services by a Nonprofit Charitable Hospital, Nonprofit Nursing Home, Nonprofit Rest Home, or Nonprofit Residential Care Home, CERT-119, Certificate for Purchases of Tangible Personal Property and Services by Qualifying Exempt Organizations, or CERT-134, Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Purchases by Qualifying Governmental Agencies**, and does not have to get prior approval from the Department of Revenue Services (DRS), when it will resell the meals at one of five fund-raising or social events per year that is exempt from tax under Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-412(94) including meals resold at conferences and seminars. See **Special Notice 98(11), Exemption From Sales and Use Taxes of Sales by Nonprofit Organizations at Fundraising or Social Events**.

**Government Purchases Not Requiring Preapproval:** The federal government has implemented the "GSA SmartPay" program, which uses four categories of credit cards: Fleet, Purchase, Travel, and Integrated cards. Federal employees may purchase meals and lodging tax exempt by using **certain** GSA SmartPay cards when the purchases are billed to and paid by the federal government. U.S. government agencies making tax-exempt purchases of meals and lodging using GSA SmartPay cards are not required to get preapproval for these purchases from DRS and are not required to provide the retailer with **CERT-112**. See **Policy Statement 2000(1.1), Retailer's Acceptance of U.S. Government "GSA SmartPay" Credit Card for Exempt Purchases**.

**Instructions for the Purchaser:** An officer of an exempt entity must complete and sign this certificate and submit it to DRS for qualifying exempt purchases of meals or lodging during a one-year period. If the purchaser is an

exempt organization, it must attach **either** a copy of its I.R.C. §501(c)(3) or (13) determination letter issued by the U.S. Treasury Department **or**, if it was issued an exemption permit by DRS, enter its exemption permit number on **CERT-123**. If the purchaser is a qualifying governmental agency, no attachment is required. If the purchaser is a nonprofit charitable hospital, nonprofit nursing home, nonprofit rest home, or nonprofit residential care home, it must attach a copy of a valid and active license issued by the Department of Public Health under Chapter 368v of the Connecticut General Statutes and **either** a copy of its I.R.C. §501(c)(3) or (4) determination letter issued by the U.S. Treasury Department **or**, if it was issued an exemption permit by DRS, enter its exemption permit number on **CERT-123**. If DRS concludes that qualifying exempt purchases are being made, the certificate, with DRS official approval noted, will be returned to the exempt entity. The exempt entity must then provide the approved **CERT-123** to the retailer of meals or lodging. Keep a copy of this certificate, documents attached, and records that substantiate the information on this certificate for at least six years from the date it is issued.

**Events That Qualify for Refund Only:** If the exempt entity will be paying (and will not be reimbursed in whole or in part) for the meals or lodging of some of the attendees, but will be reimbursed in whole or in part for the meals or lodging of others, a preapproved exemption will **not** be issued. The exempt entity must pay tax on **all** the meals or lodging at the time of the purchase. However, DRS will refund the tax on those meals or lodging that were paid for by the exempt entity for which it was not reimbursed in whole or in part. The exempt entity must file, and DRS must approve, **CERT-122, Refund of Tax Paid on Purchases of Meals or Lodging by Exempt Entities**. The exempt entity is not eligible for refund of tax paid on those meals or lodging for which it received full or partial reimbursement other than for meals sold under the five one-day social or fund-raising events per calendar year exemption. See **Policy Statement 96(7), Purchases of Meals or Lodging by Exempt Organizations or Qualifying Governmental Agencies**, for more information.

**Example 1:** B, an exempt organization, sponsors a dinner to honor one of its members. The restaurant charges B \$50 per meal and B sells tickets for \$50 per person. The honoree and members of the immediate family attend as guests of the organization. B must pay sales tax on all meals purchased. It may, however, complete and file **CERT-122** to claim a refund of the taxes paid only on meals consumed by the honoree and members of the immediate family.

**Example 2:** C, an exempt organization, sponsors a retirement dinner to honor one of its employees. The restaurant charges C \$60 per meal. C sells tickets for \$50 per person and pays the \$10 difference to the restaurant from its own funds. C must pay sales tax on the full price of all meals purchased. Because the organization received partial reimbursement for all of the meals, C is not eligible for a refund of any of the tax paid.

**Instructions for Retailer of Meals or Lodging:** Accept this certificate only if you directly invoice and charge the exempt entity for the meals or lodging. Accept the certificate only if you are directly paid by the exempt entity with a check drawn on the exempt entity's own checking account or with a credit card issued in the exempt entity's name (not in the name of one of its members, employees, or officers). Cash payments will not satisfy this condition, regardless of the cost of the meals or lodging.

Acceptance of this certificate, when properly completed and with DRS official approval noted, relieves the retailer from the burden of proving that the sale of meals or lodging is not subject to tax. This certificate is valid only if taken in good faith from an exempt entity.

Keep a copy of this certificate, the attached documents, and bills or invoices to the exempt entity, for at least six years from the date the meals or lodging were purchased. The bills, invoices, or records covering the purchase made under this certificate must be marked **Exempt Under CERT-123** to indicate an exempt purchase has occurred.

Name of Exempt Entity:	Federal Employer Identification Number
Address of Exempt Entity	Connecticut Exemption Permit Number <i>(If any)</i>

*(If the exempt entity was not issued a Connecticut exemption permit (E-number), please attach a copy of the exempt entity's I.R.C. §501(c)(3), (4), or (13) determination letter.)*

Name of Retailer	Check Appropriate Box(es) <input type="checkbox"/> Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Lodging
Address of Retailer	

Describe Purpose or Reason for Event(s): (Please be specific. For example, meeting of board of trustees, or luncheon to honor volunteers)

- |  |                              |                             |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Will the exempt entity receive reimbursement, full or partial, for any or all the meals or lodging?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. Will the exempt entity make a charge for the meals or lodging to those attending the event?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. Will the retailer of the meals or lodging directly invoice and charge the exempt entity for the meals or lodging?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 4. Will the exempt entity directly pay the retailer of the meals or lodging with a check drawn on its own checking account or with a credit card issued in its own name (and not in the name of one of its members, employees, or officers)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

### Declaration by Exempt Entity

I declare that the exempt organization, qualifying governmental agency, nonprofit charitable hospital, nonprofit nursing home, nonprofit rest home, or nonprofit residential care home:

- Is being directly invoiced and charged by the retailer;
- Is directly paying the retailer with a check drawn on its own account or with a credit card issued in its own name; and
- Will not be reimbursed, directly or indirectly, by donation or otherwise, for all or a portion of the cost of the meals or lodging by those consuming the meals or lodging.

I also declare that any exemption permit noted on this certificate, any determination letter or group exemption letter (as the case may be), and license issued by the Department of Public Health, if applicable, attached to this certificate, has not been canceled or revoked. I declare under penalty of law that I have examined this document (including any accompanying schedules and statements) and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, complete, and correct. I understand that the penalty for willfully delivering a false return or document to DRS is a fine of not more than \$5,000, or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. The declaration of a paid preparer other than the taxpayer is based on all information of which the preparer has any knowledge.

Print Name	Title	
Signature of Authorized Person	Date	Telephone Number

**Notice to Retailers: Do not accept this certificate if DRS has not completed the following section and noted official approval.**

*For DRS Use Only*

#### Request Approved by DRS

Official Approval/DRS	Date Approved
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Expiration Date of Blanket Certificate: This certificate expires on: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Request Disapproved by DRS

- ☐ Exempt entity did not provide proof of exempt status. (Connecticut exemption permit number or I.R.C. §501(c)(3), (4), or (13) determination letter, and license issued by the Department of Public Health, if applicable.)
- ☐ Exempt entity will not be directly invoiced and charged by the retailer of the meals or lodging.
- ☐ Exempt entity will not directly pay the retailer of the meals or lodging with a check drawn on its own checking account or with a credit card issued in its own name (and not in the name of one of its members, employees, or officers).
- ☐ Exempt entity will be reimbursed, in full or in part, for its payment for the meals or lodging by those consuming the meals or lodging.

Official Disapproval/DRS	Date Disapproved
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**For More Information:** For other information, call the *Exempt Organization Coordinator* at **1-800-382-9463** (in-state) and choose Option 0 or **860-297-5962** (from anywhere). **TTY, TDD, and Text Telephone users** only may transmit inquiries 24 hours a day by calling **860-297-4911**. Preview and download forms and publications from the DRS Web site: **[www.drs.state.ct.us](http://www.drs.state.ct.us)**

Submit this certificate for approval to:

Department of Revenue Services  
Taxpayer Services Division - Exempt Organization Coordinator  
25 Sigourney Street  
Hartford CT 06106-5032